

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2014

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, January 6, 2014 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Bussiere, Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Hatch, Selectman Malloy, Chairman Clark, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil.

Chairman Clark welcomed everyone and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing on the acceptance of money for the conservation land at 6:34 p.m. The City of Portsmouth has donated \$5000 to help with the purchase of conservation land to be added to the Tamposi property and it is anticipated that money will be coming from another town. Selectman Bussiere moved to accept the money, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. The public hearing closed at 6:31 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron St. Jean noted that the Greater Barrington Chamber of Commerce and the Library Trustees would like to host a candidate's forum on February 19, 2014.

Charter Weeks had concerns on how the town should market the property on Route 125. He suggested that the Board have the road crew do some cutting to make the property more visible.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 16, 2013 – several were needed so the minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Administrator Scruton stated that he has been talking with Jack Bingham about entering into a multi-year agreement on solar power in which solar panels would be installed at the highway garage and safety complex. He suggests that the town go out for an RFQ for solar energy and put an article on the warrant requesting the town's approval. He would like the RFQs back by February 6th. Chairman Clark recused himself as he has done business with Mr. Bingham. Vice-Chairman Hatch took over the discussion. Selectman Gaudiello asked about cost savings to the town. Jack Bingham stated there are ways to write the contract that would have immediate savings. The RFQ will be reviewed by members of the community. Vice-Chairman Hatch asked for public comment. Ken Grant thought that there should be more exposure to the public as to the cost. He further stated that the Board should know more about what they are dealing with before they make a decision. He has been trying to contact the company that is dealing with Durham and he has not heard back from them. He further noted that he supports hydro-electric power. Jack Bingham stated how the power purchase works and the entity who owns the system is responsible for maintenance. Selectman Gaudiello stated that the RFQ doesn't commit us and suggested that the town move

forward. Ken Grant asked about maintenance of the panels and asked about who will do the maintenance. Vice-Chairman Hatch noted that these questions can be asked through the RFQ. Selectman Gaudiello moved to proceed with the RFQ and warrant article in order to explore the partnership, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Chairman Clark abstained from the vote.

2. Administrator Scruton indicated the projected year end increase in fund balance enabled the town to offset all capital warrant articles and remain on target for fund balance and recommends using fund balance to offset capital reserve articles and the highway shed warrant article. Selectman Bussiere moved to support Administrator Scruton's recommendation, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
3. Administrator Scruton asked the Board what they wanted noted as a tax impact statement on each warrant article. The following were approved: "There is no impact on the amount to be raised by 2014 property taxes by the passage of this article; or there is a projected 2014 increase of \$ 00.00 tax on a home currently assessed at \$250,000 from this article and for the bond article; there is no impact on the amount to be raised by 2014 property taxes by the passage of this article but there is a commitment to make payments in future years that will increase property taxes in those years".
4. A tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement has been reached with the Police Union and the total net increase is \$3,291. Administrator Scruton reviewed what was in the Agreement. Selectman Bussiere asked about a running legal bill. It is currently over \$20,000. A warrant article will need to go before the voters in March to accept this Agreement. Selectman Gaudiello moved preliminary approval as presented tonight, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
5. There will be a warrant article to place \$4,208.84 of cemetery revenue into the Cemetery Capital Reserve account.
6. There was discussion about two capital reserve articles that have little money in them that could be used by the two departments. There is \$2,245 in a capital reserve for the recycling building and \$1,223 in a capital reserve for the ambulance. Selectman Gaudiello moved to authorize the use of these capital reserve funds and request the fund from the Trustees of Trust Funds, seconded by Selectman Malloy. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
7. Administrator Scruton asked the Board if they wished to place an article on the warrant regarding acceptance of the Svenson land. Charter Weeks, representing the ABB, presented a draft warrant article that was read by Chairman Clark. Selectman Gaudiello stated that she does not support a \$500,000 bond. Selectman Bussiere stated that he does not want this to be a catalyst for developing down there – he supports the Ramsdell Lane property for a town office. Chairman Clark stated that there are three issues and the voters have the right to vote for them separately – a new town hall is the first that should be supported. Garth Swenson noted that Holy Rosary Credit Union has signed a purchase and sale agreement for the property previously owned by Sumner Hayes. John Svenson also noted that the Svenson family does not want their name attached to a piece of land with a \$500,000 bond. John Svenson noted that Holy Rosary is going to put in the road. He doesn't see the cost being anything close to \$500,000. He stressed, give the town center a chance. Chairman Clark would like to accept the Svenson property at no cost, fix the town office issue first and then work on the future of the Svenson property. Selectman Hatch felt that the taxpayers and voters need to

know that the \$500,000 is not connected to the gift to the town. It goes towards the development of the property. Administrator Scruton explained \$200,000 was for site development costs clearing and gravel. Selectman Gaudiello proposed withdrawing the currently drafted bond article and substitute a simpler article. Selectman Bussiere wanted to keep the bond article so that it could be discussed at the public hearing. Selectman Gaudiello moved to draft an article worded as: To see if the Town of Barrington will vote to accept the property offered by the Swenson family by the Christmas Dove and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to pay for engineering and related studies for the development of the property for municipal purposes, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Administrator Scruton was asked to get some hard costs this week for development engineering.

8. Administrator Scruton had the suggestion from Marie Harris to add money to the budget to broadcast meetings on cable television. It was suggested to link the meetings to u-tube so everyone could look at them and not just Metrocast subscribers. Selectman Gaudiello moved to add \$3000 to the 2014 executive budget for the purpose of taping Selectmen and Planning Board meetings, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
9. The Board agreed to set up meetings in March to discuss space needs with the School Board and another meeting with the Library Trustees and Recreation Commission.
10. The Board asked Administrator Scruton to make a recommendation when dealing with square footage and space needs for office space.
11. The Board reviewed Administrator Scruton's draft for the town common and town report. The Board made several comments and recommended changes. Selectman Gaudiello would like to see single stream recycling noted in these reports.
12. Selectman Gaudiello moved to accept the road name Yearling Drive for the White Tail Development, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
13. Administrator Scruton stated that he heard unofficially that the town received \$200,000 from LCHIP toward purchase of Calef property.
14. The Board expects to receive several Petitioned articles for the Warrant
15. Administrator Scruton has agreed to let Peter Cook temporarily carry an excess of 40 hours as he believes he will be able to take a vacation in January. Mr. Cook was unable to take time off in November and December because of the vacancies and new employees.
16. There will be approximately \$90,000 in the Capital Reserve account for highway work created by the \$5 charge on motor vehicles.
17. NHDOT has approved the selection of HTA for the Green Hill bridge project, through the NHDOT Municipal Bridge Program, subject to successful negotiations of a fee arrangement.
18. Administrator Scruton is recommending a warrant article changing Old Green Hill Road from Orchard Hill Road to the Madbury line to a Class A trail. The Class A trail would be open to passive recreation and not for motorized public use.
19. The rebate that the town would receive September 1, 2014 from health insurance would be \$29,532.54. However, Administrator Scruton is waiting for an answer on what happens if the town delays changing plans until July 1, 2015.
20. The town will be starting the eviction process for the properties that were taken for non-payment of taxes.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: a pole license on France Road, the contract for Cocheco Valley Humane Society, Notice to Quit in preparation for the eviction process, payroll manifests dated 12/15, 12/22 and 12/29, and vendor manifests dated 12/19, 12/26 and 1/2

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello stated that the next school board meeting is Tuesday.

Selectman Hatch has had no meetings between Christmas and New Year's. The Steering Committee is the next meeting.

Selectman Malloy will be attending the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday.

Selectman Bussiere stated that the last Conservation Commission meeting was canceled due to weather. He further stated that he, his son and daughter volunteered for Christmas baskets. He stated that it was a wonderful event and commented on all the town employees who volunteered.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Charter Weeks warned about the dangers of using fund balance to fund warrant articles and what would happen in the future when that money is not available and how it would affect the increase in tax rate.

Ken Grant asked about the \$3,000 that was added to the budget for the cable broadcast and would workers comp and other costs need to be paid for that employee.

He also questioned air quality problems at the old town office. Chairman Clark stated that the documents are available that demonstrate that there is a problem there.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.